

Concise Explanatory Statement
for amendments to
Chapter 16-462 WAC
Grape Planting Stock

At the request of the participating grapevine nurseries and the Grapevine Advisory Committee, the Washington State Dept. of Agriculture initiated rulemaking to revise the grape planting stock rule. On August 31, 2006, the department held a hearing in Yakima to accept testimony on its proposal to amend chapter 16-462 WAC. The proposal amends the grape planting stock rules by:

- 1) Exempting registered and certified stock grown in a fully enclosed greenhouse, screenhouse or laboratory from the isolation distance from noncertified or nonregistered grapevines;
- 2) Repealing the requirement that different varieties of grapevines in registered blocks must be separated by a minimum distance;
- 3) Modifying the requirements for propagating registered stock by allowing an extra generation under controlled conditions;
- 4) Recognizing the responsibility of Washington State University for inspecting and indexing the Northwest Foundation Block at WSU-Prosser;
- 5) Repealing the requirement that grapevines used for the production of certified planting stock must be pruned to allow fruiting;
- 6) Requiring that certified grape planting stock must be free of regulated pests and diseases;
- 7) Adding vine mealy bug to the list of pests that certified grape planting stock must be free of; and
- 8) Increasing the clarity and readability of the language.

Reasons for Adopting the Rule:

The proposed revisions will reflect the changing practices of the grapevine nurseries, especially towards greenhouse and laboratory production. Isolation distances from potentially infected grapevines that are important in the field are impractical and unnecessary in an enclosed facility, as is the requirement for fruiting. The proposed revisions eliminate the required space between varieties and allow an additional generation of registered vines under certain conditions. These revisions are necessary for nurseries to meet the increasing demand for specific clones and selections by allowing nurseries to propagate large amounts of certified vines from a relatively small number of registered vines. Under this proposal the department will be able to certify the Northwest Foundation Block at WSU. These proposed revisions will allow increased market competitiveness for Washington grown certified grapevines and help meet increasing demands for certified planting stock from the grape industry.

Summary of Comments:

The public comment period ran from July 19, 2006 until close of business on August 31, 2006. During that time, one oral comment was received.

The following summarizes the oral testimony regarding the proposed amendments:

Gary Ballard – representing the Washington State University **supports** the proposal. Stated “...it is WSU and the foundation program’s belief that the amendments as stated here will greatly improve the language and confusion that has arisen in the past in certain areas and will also address the changing methods of nursery propagation that have taken place over the past three to four years and will allow then a much more rapid increase of certified plant material to the resulting consumer.”

Difference Between Proposed Text and Published Text:

There are no differences between the text of the proposed rule as published in the register and the text of the rule as adopted. The rule is adopted as proposed.